

Appl. No. 10/707,275
Amdt. dated March 7, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 14, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

5 Claims 1-3 and 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shinichi (JP 07-272507).

10 With respect to claim 1, Shinichi discloses, in Figs. 1-6, a backlight source disposed under a display panel (on the diffusion plate [3], not shown; see Fig. 5 and "PRIOR ART" translation, ¶ [0005], lines 3-4) comprising a plurality of parallel U-shaped lamps [6, 7]; each of the U-shaped lamps has (i) an inner surface, (ii) an outer surface, and (iii) a high voltage electrode [6a and 7a] (see Fig. 1) and a low voltage electrode [6b and 7b] (see Fig. 1); the high voltage electrodes [6a, 7a] are disposed
15 equally on two sides (left and right sides; see Fig. 1) of the display panel.

20 With respect to claim 2, Shinichi discloses that the backlight source is installed in a direct-type backlight panel unit (which is television, etc.; see "TECHNICAL FIELD" translation, line 2).

25 With respect to claim 3, Shinichi discloses, in Fig. 6, that the direct-type backlight unit comprises a diffuser [3] disposed between the display panel and the plurality of the U-shaped lamps [6, 7] for scattering a light source generated by the plurality of the U-shaped lamps to the display panel, a light diffuser plate [4] disposed between the diffuser [3] and the plurality of the U-shaped lamps [6, 7] for transmitting the light source to the diffuser [3], and a reflecting plate [1] disposed under the plurality of the U-shaped lamps [6, 7] for reflecting the light source to the

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light diffuser plate [4].

5 With respect to claim 5, Shinichi discloses that the U-shaped lamp is a cold cathode fluorescent lamp (CCFL) (see "DETAILED DESCRIPTION" translation; ¶ [0025], lines 1-2).

10 With respect to claim 6, Shinichi discloses, in Figs. 1-6, that the U-shaped lamps [6, 7] alternatively face two opposite sides of the display panel.

15 With respect to claim 7, Shinichi discloses, in Figs. 1-6, that the inner surface of the U-shaped lamp [6] is adjacent to the inner surface of an adjacent U-shaped lamp [7].

20 With respect to claim 8, Shinichi discloses, in Figs. 1-6, that the outer surface of the U-shaped lamp [6] is adjacent to the outer surface of an adjacent U-shaped lamp [7].

25 With respect to claim 9, Shinichi discloses, in Figs. 1-6, that the backlight source further comprises a power supply (not shown) for providing current and a control circuit (which is inverter [11]; see Fig. 1) electrically connected to the power supply for driving the backlight source.

With respect to claim 10, Shinichi discloses, in Fig. 1, that the control circuit [11] comprises one inverter [11] electrically connected to the high voltage electrode and the low voltage electrode of the corresponding U-shaped lamp.

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With respect to claim 11, Shinichi discloses, in Figs. 1-6, that the inverter [11] comprises a direct current/alternating current (DC/AC) inverter (since it contains two or more oscillating transistors; see
5 "DETAILED DESCRIPTION" translation; ¶ [0004], line 3).

Response:

Claim 1 is amended to overcome this rejection. The amended claim 1
10 includes the feature that "each of the U-shaped or C-shaped lamps being bent in a reverse direction to the adjacent U-shaped or C-shaped lamps". The amended claim 1 is fully supported by the disclosure, and more specifically, by Figs. 2-4 of the present application. No new matter is introduced.

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Referring to Fig. 1 of Shinichi's disclosure, the adjacent U-shaped lamps 6 and 7 are both bent to the left, so that the high voltage electrodes 6a and 7a are positioned on the same side (the left side) of the display panel. Shinichi never teaches the concept of bending the adjacent U-shape
20 lamps 6 and 7 in reverse directions to dispose the high voltage electrodes 6a and 7a on two sides of the display panel. Therefore, Shinichi's disclosure cannot achieve the advantage of preventing abnormal accumulation of heat on one side (the left side) of the display panel, as is provided by the present application.

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In addition, claim 6 of the present application is amended to make the limitation more clear. The amended claim 6 is supported by Figs. 2-4 of the present application. No new matter is introduced. The amended claim 6 discloses the feature that "the neighboring U-shaped lamps alternately

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face two opposite sides of the display panel". In Shinichi's disclosure, however, the neighboring U-shaped lamps 6 and 7 always face the same direction (the left side of the display panel), instead of alternately facing
5 two "opposite" sides of the display panel.

From the aforementioned reasons, the applicant respectfully believes that the amended claims 1 and 6 of the present application are absolutely different from Shinichi's disclosure. Reconsideration of the rejection over
10 claims 1 and 6 is hereby requested.

As claims 2-3 and 5-11 are dependent upon the amended claim 1, they should be allowed if the amended claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 2-3 and 5-11 is therefore requested.
15

2. Rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinichi (JP 07-272507) in view of Huang (Pub. No.: US 2004/0114070
20 A1).

With respect to claim 4, Shinichi discloses all the claimed subject matter, as expressly recited in claims 1-3, except for a housing being disposed under the reflecting plate for surrounding the reflecting plate and
25 a bezel for assembling the display panel and the backlight source.

Huang discloses, in Figs. 4 and 9, a backlight unit comprising a housing [66] disposed under a reflecting plate [56] for surrounding the reflecting plate [56] (see ¶ [0023], lines 14-15) and a bezel (not shown)

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for assembling a display panel [41] and a backlight source [51] (see ¶ [0020], lines 4-6).

5 It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to implement the backlight source of Shinichi by providing a housing under the reflecting plate to surround the reflecting plate and a bezel to assemble the display panel and the backlight source for a complete display assembly since such an arrangement of parts for the
10 stated purpose has been well known in the art as evidenced by the teachings of Huang (see Figs. 4 and 9).

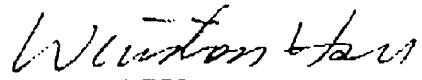
Response:

15 As claim 4 is dependent upon the amended claim 1, it should be allowed if the amended claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claim 4 is therefore requested.

20 Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



Date: March 07, 2005

5 Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526
P.O. BOX 506, Merrifield, VA 22116, U.S.A.
Voice Mail: 302-729-1562
Facsimile: 806-498-6673
e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com

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